

# From DER Optimization to a Multi-Layered Microgrid Controller

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Infocast's 5th Military & Commercial Microgrids  
Summit 2014

19 November 2014

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<http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/>

**DER-CAM** DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS  
ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

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Public Service New Mexico, TriTechnic, University of New Mexico, University  
of San Diego, Universidad Pontificia Comillas – IIT, ...

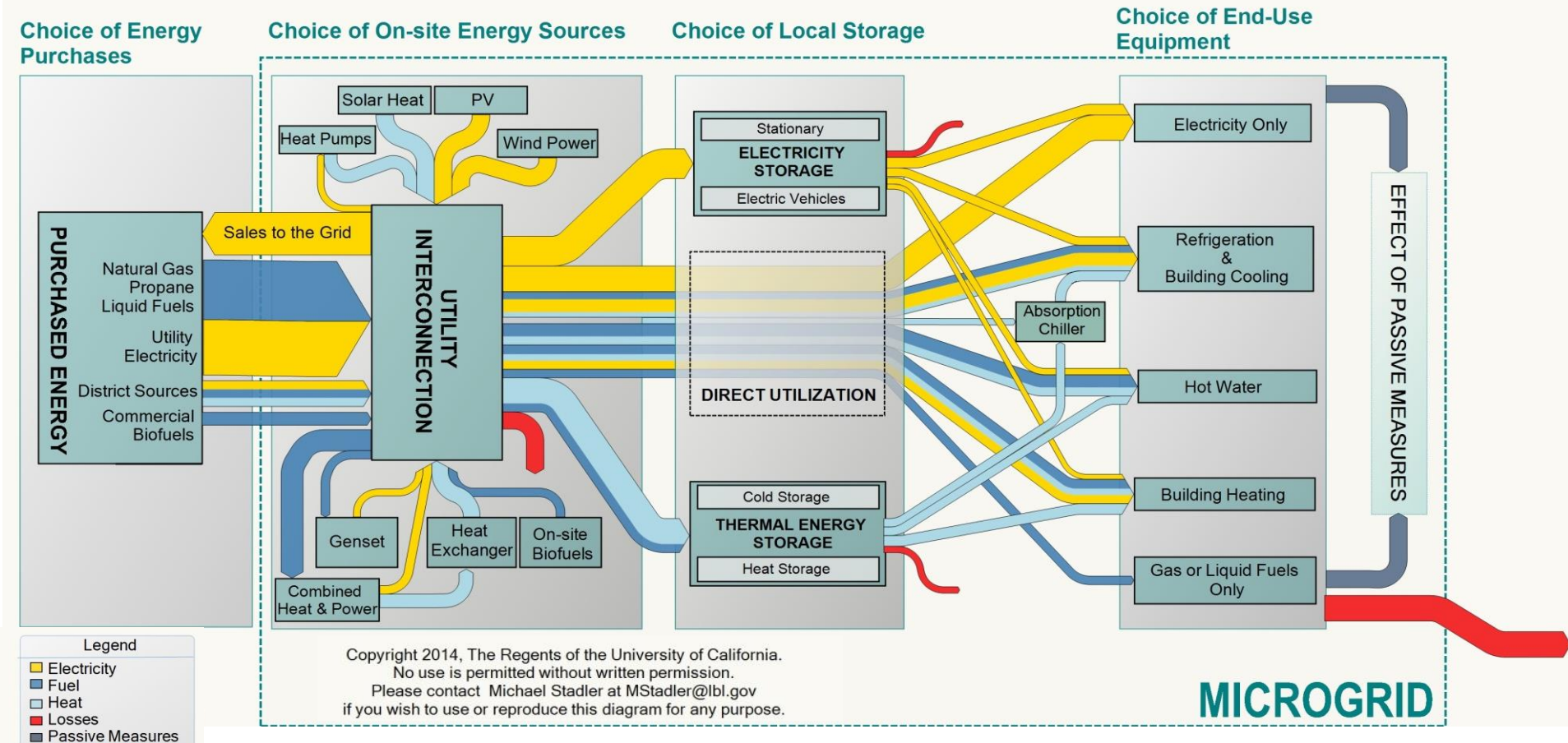


# Global Concept for Buildings and Microgrids



## MICROGRID ARCHITECTURE AND DECISION-MAKING INSIDE DER-CAM

M. Stadler, C. Marnay, D. Baldassari.  
March 13, 2014.



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## **Distributed Energy Resources Customer Adoption Model (DER-CAM)**

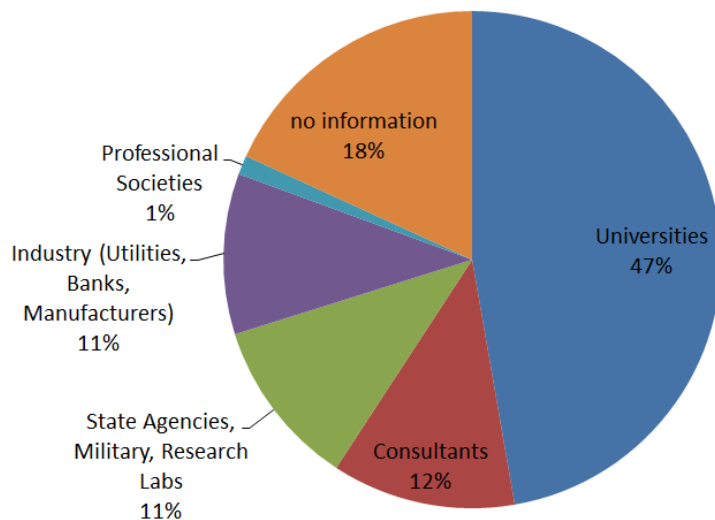
- is a deterministic and stochastic Mixed Integer Linear Program (MILP), written in the General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS®)
- started as a building CHP optimization tool
- supported by the U.S. DOE, OE, DoD, CEC, private industry
- two main objective functions:
  - cost minimization
  - CO<sub>2</sub> minimization
- other objectives are possible, as well as multi-objective, subject to microgrid/building constraints and energy balance
- produces optimal investment and dispatch results for biogas/diesel/natural gas CHP, fuel cells, ICE, micro-turbines, gas-turbines; PV, solar thermal, hot and cold water storage, batteries, heat pumps, absorption chiller, EV, passive measures (insulation, window changes, etc..)

# DER-CAM

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

- optimizes heating, cooling, electricity, and fuel loads (as natural gas)
- can consider real microgrid conditions as islanding and critical loads
- very specific versions exist (<http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/projects/DER-CAM-Feature-List.pdf>)
- commercialization and predictive controller work under way
- DER-CAM *web clients* (English and Chinese version)



Web DER-CAM (WebOpt) users by business type



Web DER-CAM user map



# DER-CAM

## DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

### ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

## Transferability: Online DER-CAM User Guide

WebOpt

<https://microgrids2.lbl.gov/>

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Web Optimization Service (WebOpt)

[WebOpt File](#)
[WebOpt Help](#)

Run optimization

GO

Discard all changes

Overview/Optimization Settings

Load Profiles

Utility Tariffs

Technologies

Demand Response

Solar Radiation

Marginal CO2 Macrogrid

Results

WebOpt Guide

WebOpt - the Free Web Optimization Version of DER-CAM

Optimal Planning and Operations

DER-CAM DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

Utility, Resources, Fuel, Local Resources, Conventional Technologies (e.g. CHP, reciprocating engines), New Emerging Technologies (e.g. storage, vehicle to grid), Renewable Based Technologies (e.g. PV, solar thermal), Energy Demand, Constraints (Economic, Environmental, Other)

Distributed Energy Resources

MICROGRID

Analytics / Planning / Operation

Work Flow

Define Investment / Planning Parameters (Payback Period, Interest Rate, or Technologies to be considered)

Input / Define Electric or Heating Loads / use Load Profile Database

Input / Define Electric and Natural Gas Rates

Specify Energy Technology Parameters as Efficiencies and Costs (Electric and Heat Technologies as Storage, PV, CHP)

Define Additional Demand Response Measures

Specify Solar Radiation or use Solar Radiation Database

Specify Utility CO2 Emissions

Go

Analytics

Manual

Help

WebOpt\*) Tutorial at [http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/projects/WebOpt\\_Take2.mp4](http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/projects/WebOpt_Take2.mp4)

\*) WebOpt is a simplified free version of DER-CAM and full DER-CAM capabilities, including a) microgrid capabilities, b) critical loads, c) microgrid design considering natural disasters, d) bio-fuels, e) sales to the utility, f) standby charges, g) ambient temperature, h) stochastic capabilities, i) power flow can be licensed from Berkeley Lab. Please check <http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/> or contact [MStadler@lbl.gov](mailto:MStadler@lbl.gov).

<http://building-microgrid.lbl.gov/projects/how-access-der-cam>

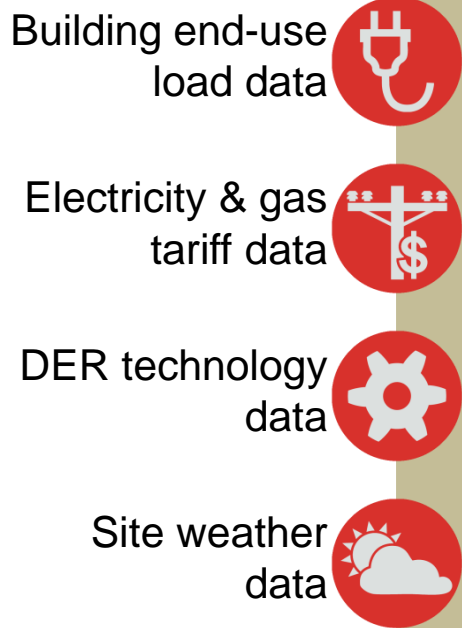
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# DER-CAM

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

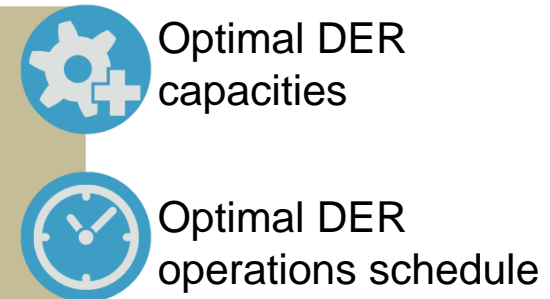
ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

## Inputs:



DER-CAM

## Outputs:



## Objectives:

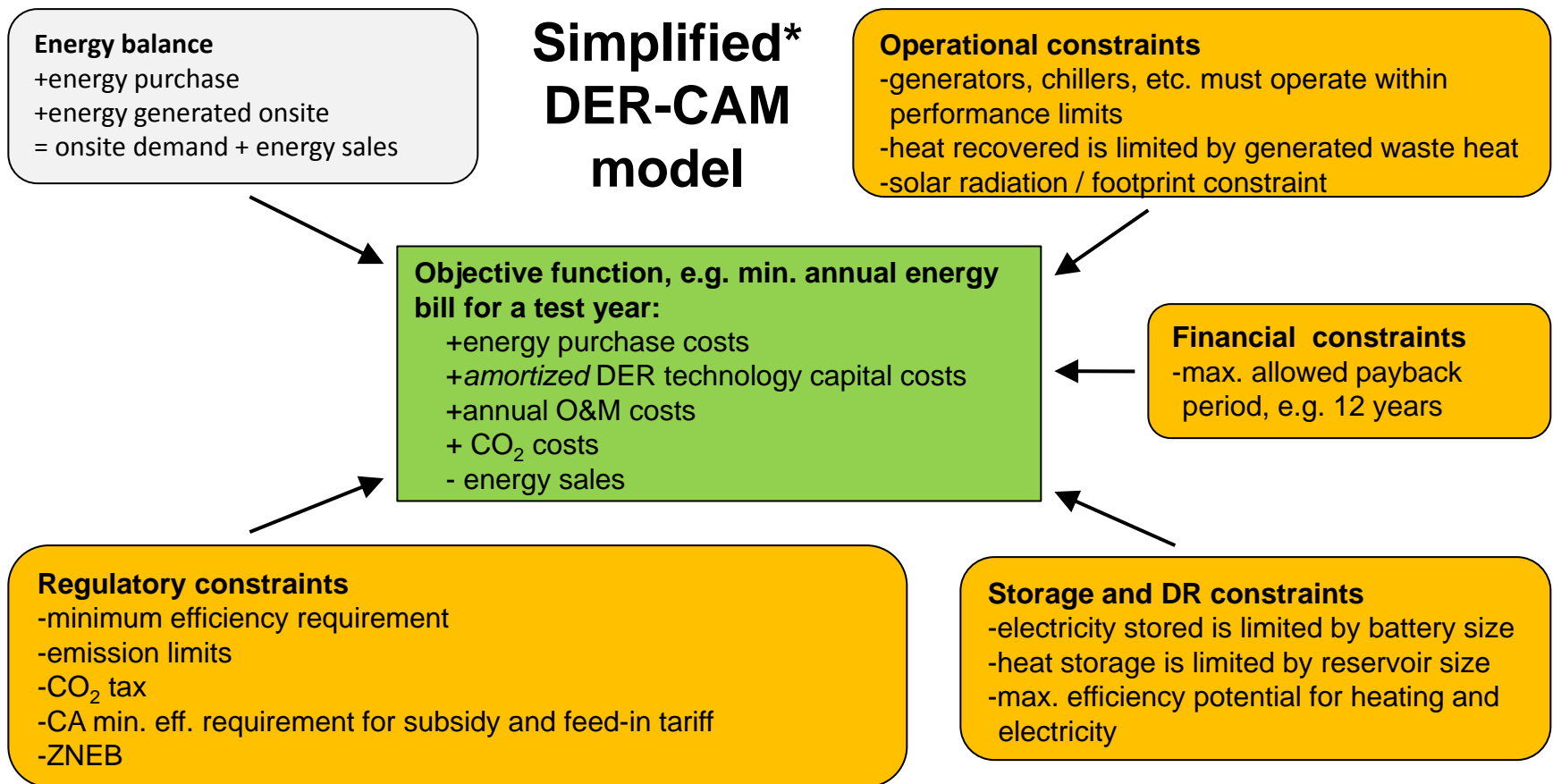


- **Investment & Planning:** determines optimal equipment combination and operation based on *historic* load data, weather, and tariffs
- **Operations:** determines optimal week-ahead scheduling for installed equipment and *forecasted* loads, weather and tariffs → used for Controller

# DER-CAM

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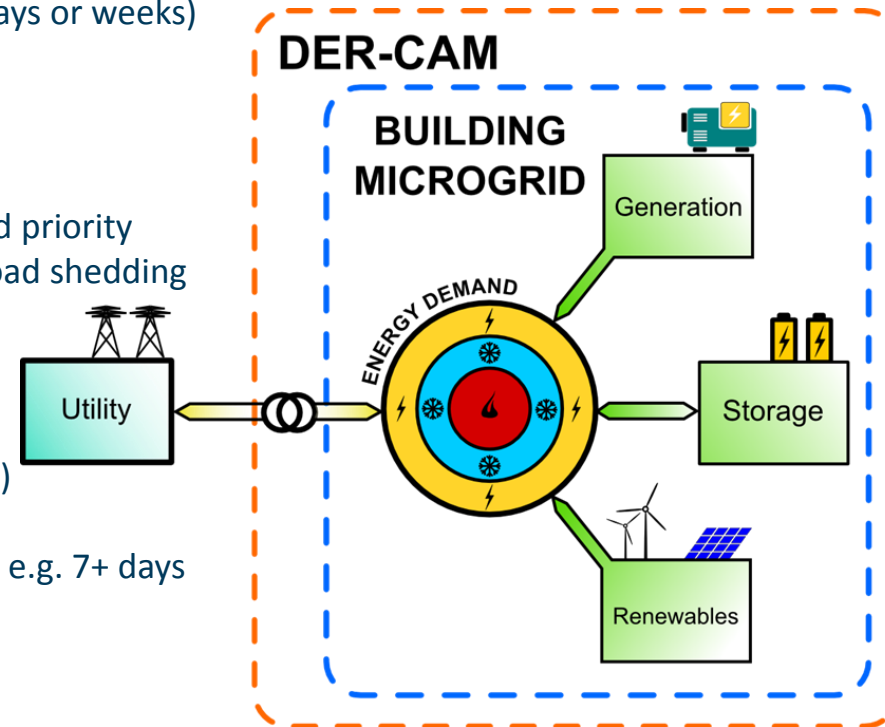
ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS



**\*does not show all constraints**

## New features: Microgrid Capabilities, Designed for Resiliency

- Voluntary & forced islanding
  - grid availability from reliability model: MTTF / MTTR
  - reliability measured by un-served energy
  - variable outage length (from a few minutes to several days or weeks)
  - voluntary islanding determined by microgrid economics
- Load Prioritization / Critical loads
  - user defined load priorities (up to 3 priority levels)
  - max. acceptable shedding amount and duration per load priority
  - economic trade-off for each priority level determines load shedding vs. backup DER
  - direct load control modelling
- Optimize offline dispatch (islanded)
  - energy management strategies (load shifting / shedding)
  - energy storage
  - resource availability – for extended times after outages, e.g. 7+ days
- Plan backup generation
  - trade-off: additional capacity vs. backup-only
  - offline fuel needs





# DER-CAM

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

## Our Partners and DER-CAM Licensees



**BOSCH**



## Our Partners



U.S. AIR FORCE



Bay Area Climate Collaborative  
Global Challenge. Regional Response



ELECTRIC POWER  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



**IISM**



# Features and Applications



- DER Controller at University of New Mexico's Mechanical Engineering Building (UNM ME) in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- microgrid controller work at Fort Hunter Liggett , California

-----Backup slides for today-----

- microgrid capabilities and resilience at Fort Hunter Liggett considering critical loads

-----Not discussed today-----

- remote access
- battery scheduling at Santa Rita Jail
- passive measures
- stepwise approximation of non-linear efficiency curves
- tracking of thermal storage temperature
- wind in DER-CAM
- electrochromic windows
- multi-year optimization (decision support)
- EV modelling
- CA CHP study

## *Application*

**DER Controller at University of New Mexico's  
Mechanical Engineering Building**

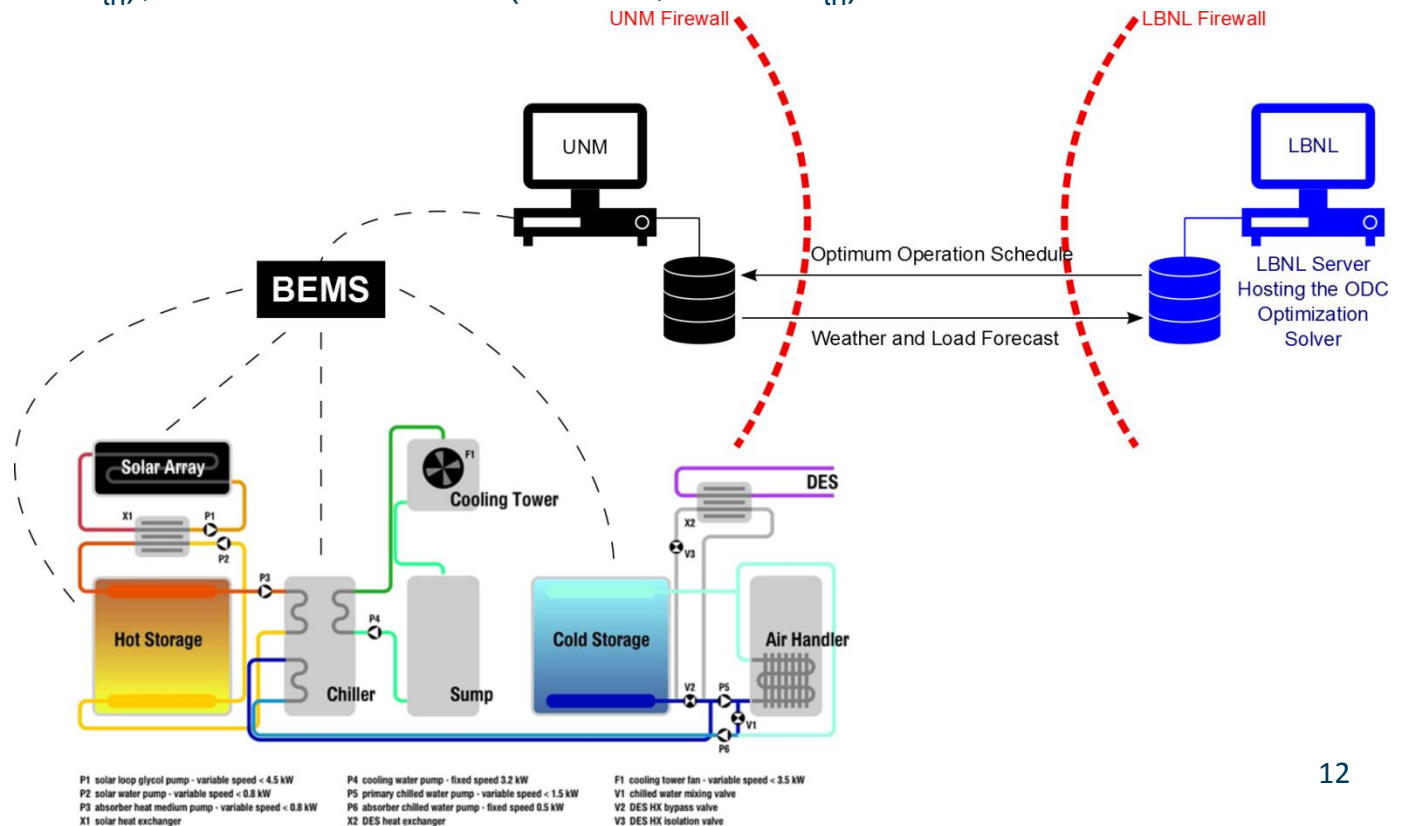
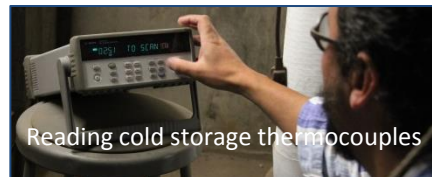
# DER-CAM

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

ANALYTICS | PLANNING | OPERATIONS

## UNM ME – DER Controller

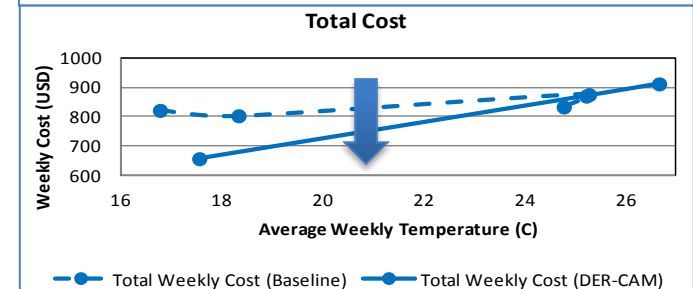
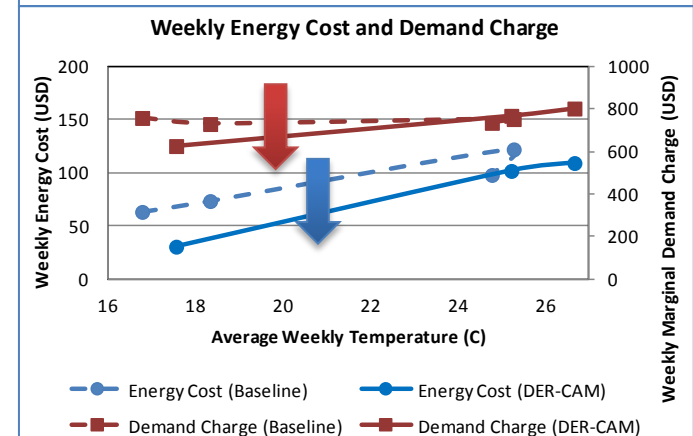
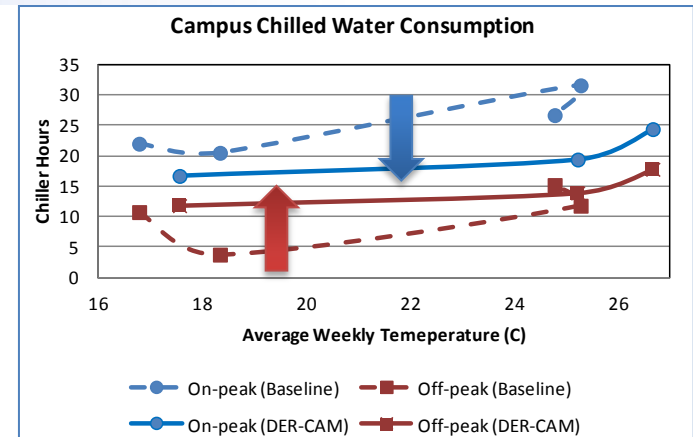
- goal: use the Operations DER-CAM (ODC) in a Software-as-a-Service model for closed loop optimum cooling operation in the UNM ME
- technologies: heat storage (30 m<sup>3</sup>, 510 kWh<sub>th</sub>), cold storage (350 m<sup>3</sup>, 2620 kWh<sub>th</sub>), absorption chiller (70 kW<sub>th</sub>), and solar thermal (232 m<sup>2</sup>, 170 kW<sub>th</sub>)





## Savings with the DER-CAM Controller

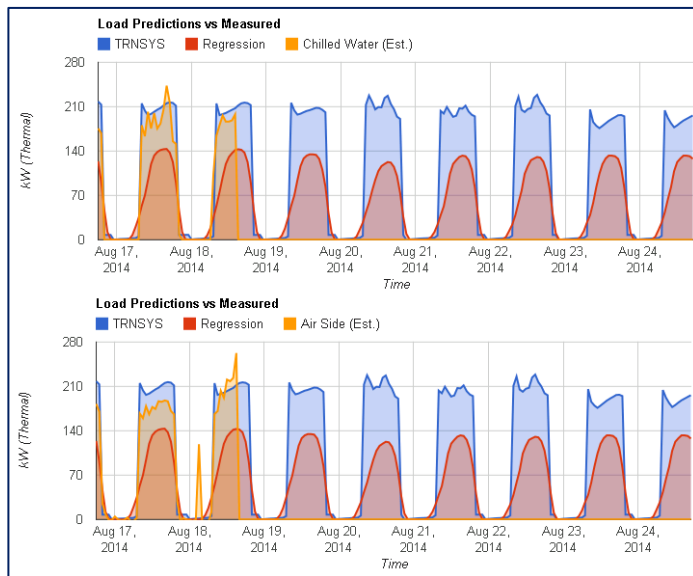
- comparison of 3 DER-CAM operated and 4 baseline weeks in summer 2014:
  - week of 05 May 2014 - Baseline – 16.8 °C
  - week of 12 May 2014 - DER-CAM – 17.6 °C
  - week of 20 May 2014 - Baseline – 18.3 °C
  - week of 01 July 2014 - Baseline – 25.3 °C
  - week of 08 July 2014 - DER-CAM – 25.2 °C
  - week of 15 July 2014 - Baseline – 24.8 °C
  - week of 22 July 2014 - DER-CAM – 26.7 °C
- observations:
  - 55% saving in weekly energy cost
  - 16% saving in weekly marginal demand charge
  - 19% saving in total weekly cost





## DER-CAM Online Interface at UNM ME

- online interface for the UNM ME operation (<http://iseslab.unm.edu/dercam.html>)
- measurements shown in real-time
- DER-CAM schedules depicted
- deviations from the optimum schedules visualized



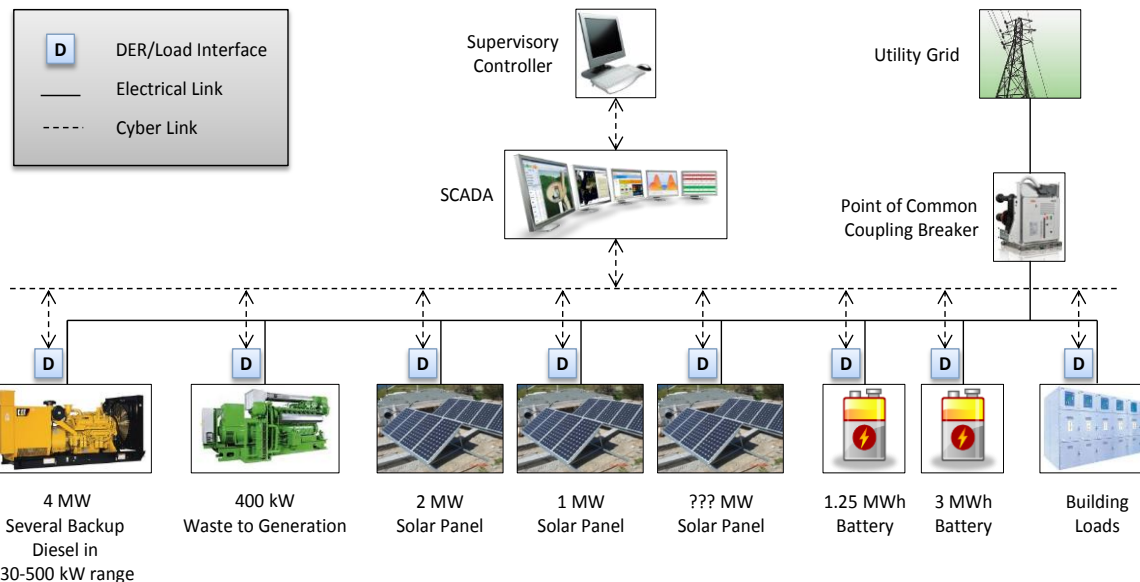
## *Application*

# Microgrid Controller Work at Fort Hunter Liggett

# Fort Hunter Liggett – Technology Portfolio



- goal: use ODC-based supervisory microgrid controller to optimize operation schedules and limit grid export
- technologies: 2 MW of PV, 1.25 MWh battery, and 4 MW backup diesel, planned for several MW of PV, 3 MWh battery, and 400 kW waste to generation



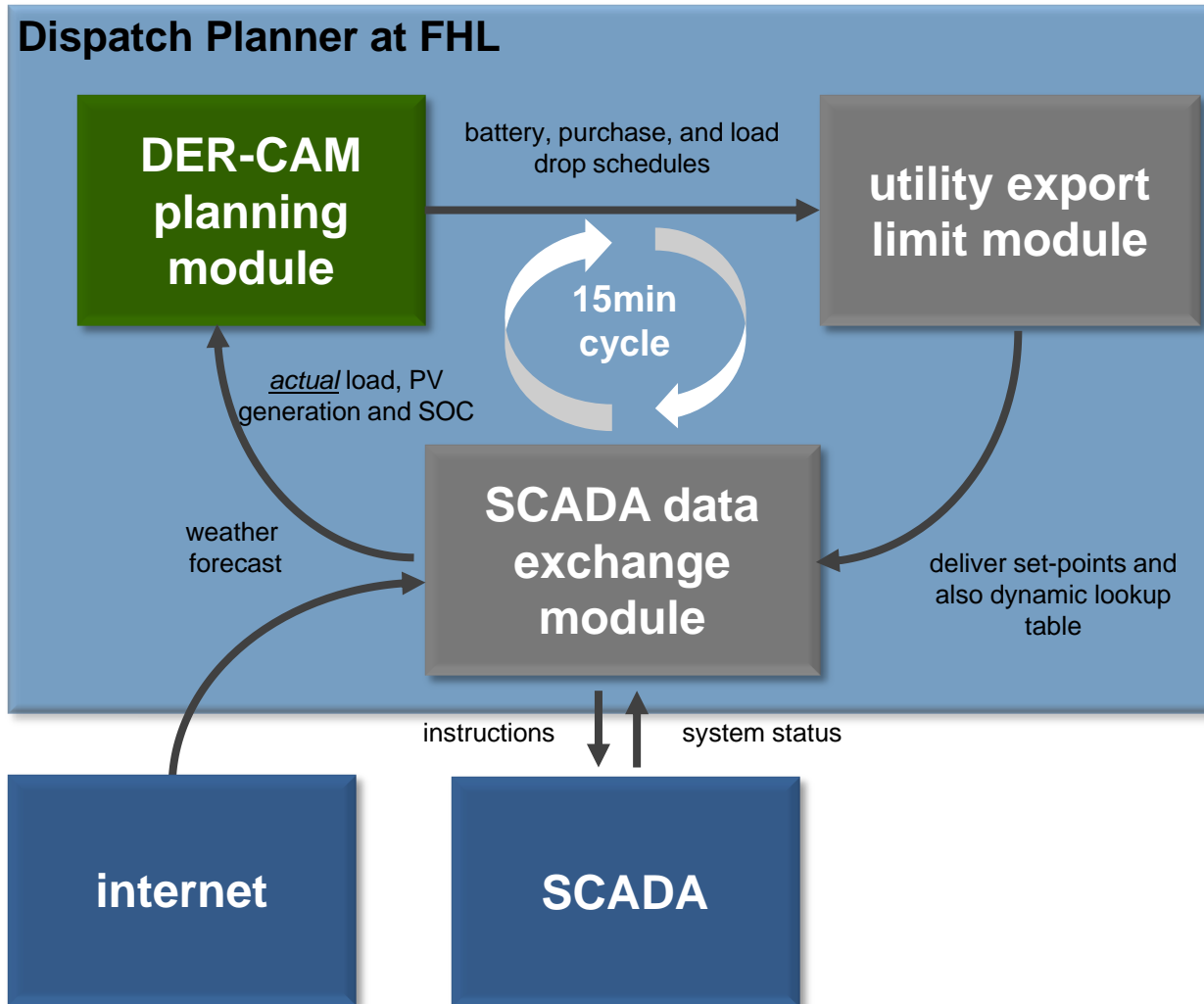
# DER-CAM

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL FOR  
DECENTRALIZED ENERGY SYSTEMS

ANALYTICS

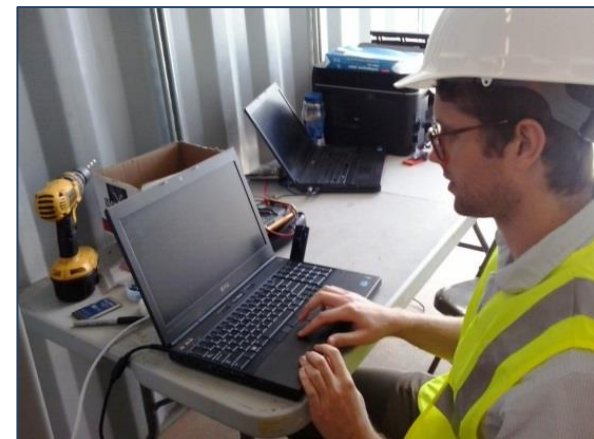
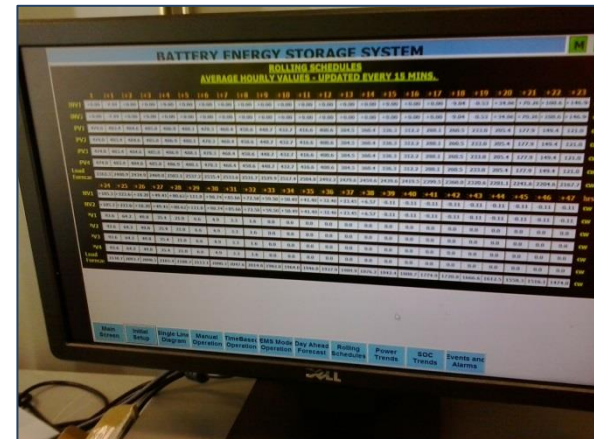
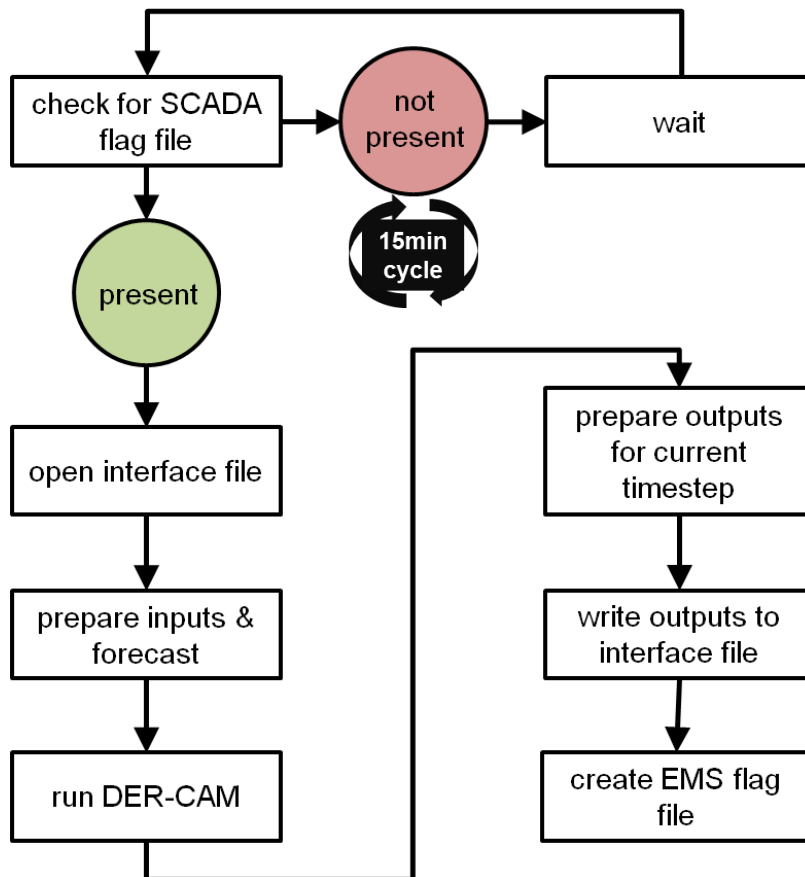
PLANNING

OPERATIONS



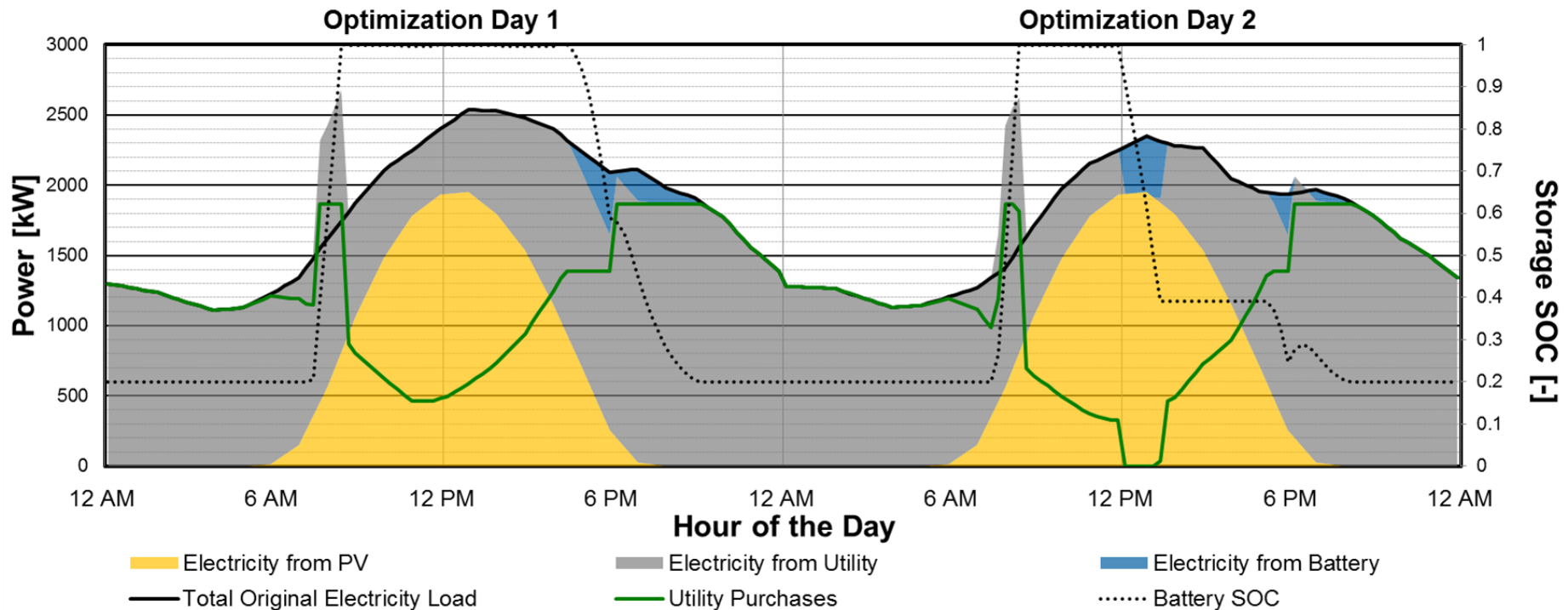


## Successful Feeding of Operations DER-CAM Dispatches into the SCADA System





- two-days ahead predictive optimization
- PV and load forecasts are inputs to the ODC

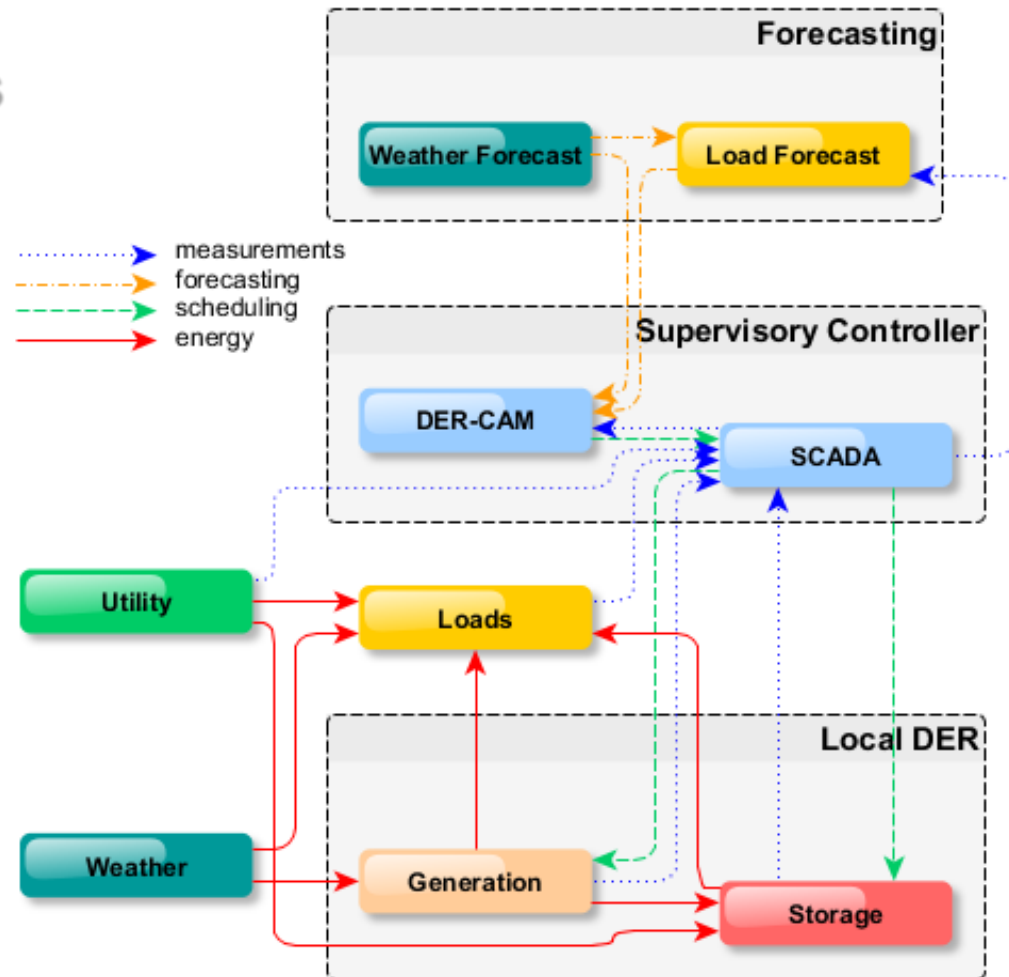


## *Final Application*

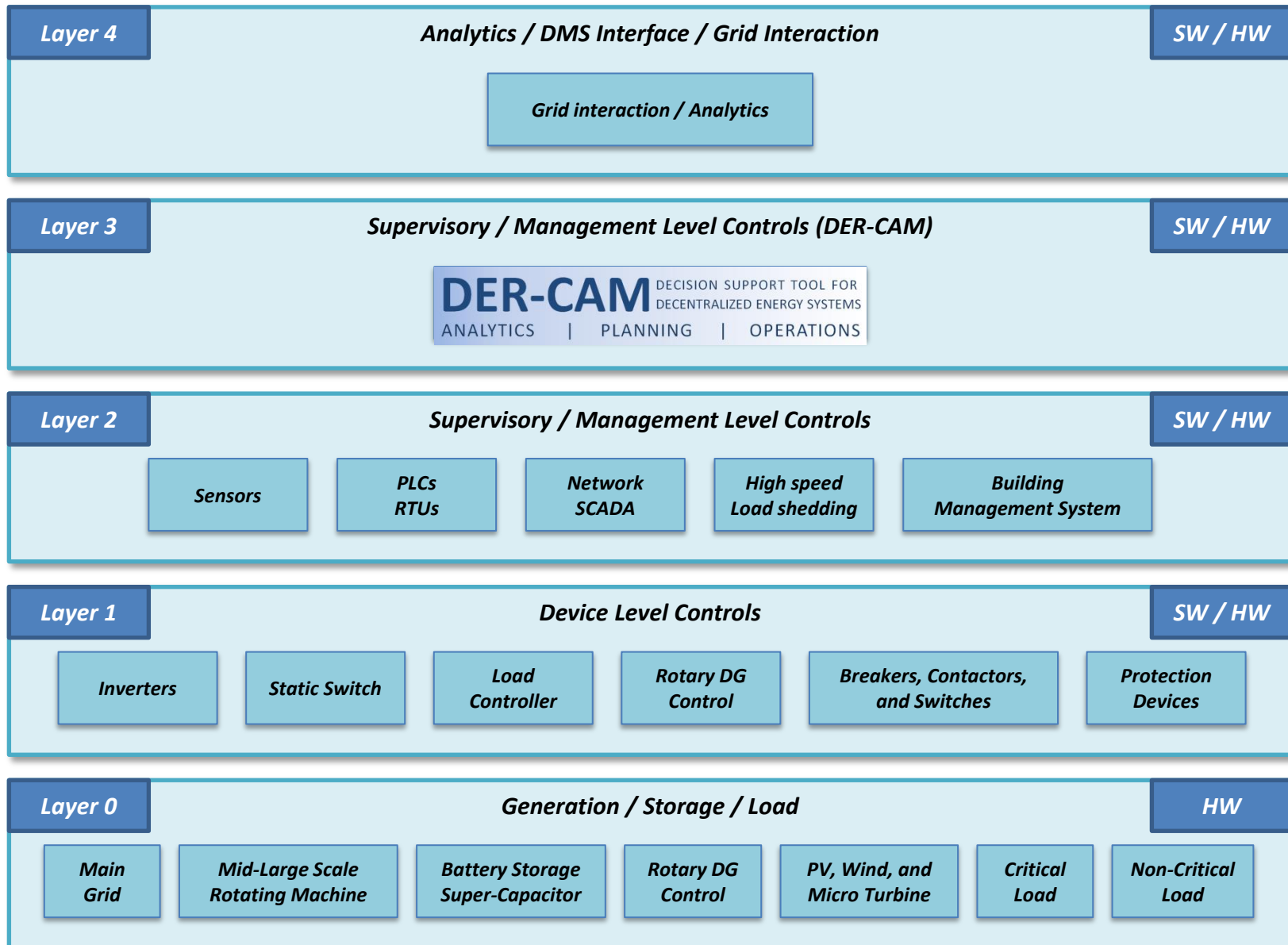
# Multi-Layered Microgrid Controller with Utility Connectivity

## Utility and Microgrid Interactions

schematic of physical and cyber interactions between utility, microgrid site, local resources, microgrid controller, and optimization problem



# Layered Architecture for Utility-Interactive Microgrid



Questions and  
comments are very  
welcome!

THANK  
YOU!

Q&A



# BACKUP SLIDES

# An Example of I&P DER-CAM Application



- site: Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL), an army base in Monterey County
- objective: use I&P DER-CAM to perform a quick assessment on optimal DER at FHL to enable microgrid capabilities, with focus on resilience against natural disasters.
- loads: 20% low priority, 70% medium priority, 10% high priority
- assessment type: DER-CAM assessment considering 24 hour blackouts, with:
  - existing DER
  - existing DER + additional PV and storage
  - existing DER + diesel backup generators
  - existing DER + additional PV, batteries, and diesel backup generators
  - existing DER + additional DER (full DER-CAM technology range)

# An Example of I&P DER-CAM Application



- DER-CAM assessment with 24h blackout (sales are not part of this analysis)
- results show that additional PV and storage, in addition to backup generation, will allow FHL to survive 24h outages without any major service disruption at lowest costs of all options
- when considering all DER options, the optimal investment solution allows enough flexibility to maintain operation during 24h outages and lowest costs

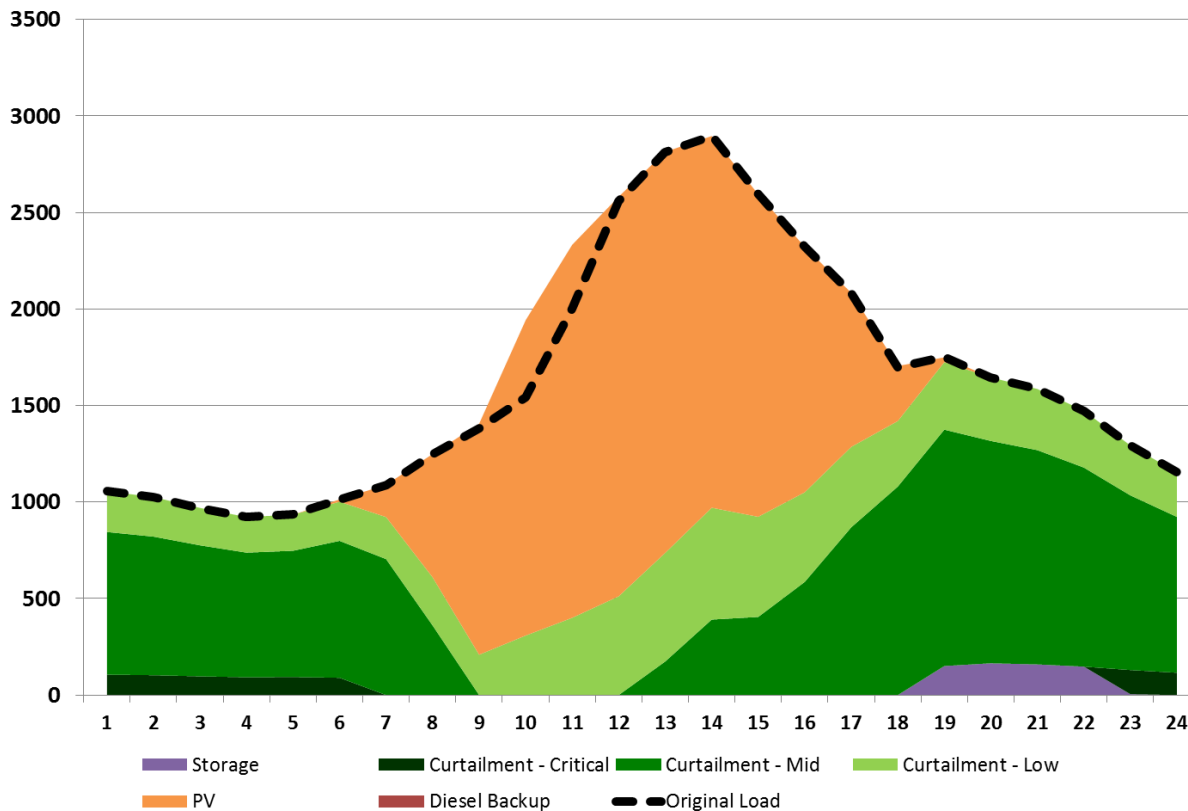
	Existing PV and Storage	Existing PV, Storage + Diesel Backup	Additional PV and Storage	Additional PV, Storage and Diesel Backup	All possible DER in DER-CAM
Annual Costs (million USD)	5.363	3.068	3.655	2.976	2.702
Annual CO <sub>2</sub> (ton)	4955	4973	2132	4119	4444
Photovoltaic (kW)	2000	2000	4936	3106	2077
Electric Storage (kWh)	1000	1000	20709	4374	1250
Diesel Backup (kW)	-	1400	-	1000	-
ICE (kW)	-	-	-	-	2000
CHP: ICE HX (kW)	-	-	-	-	500
Absorption Chiller (kW)	-	-	-	-	2807
Solar Thermal (kW)	-	-	-	-	801

(key results presented in the table)

# An Example of I&P DER-CAM Application



existing PV and storage only: with the current PV and storage capacity alone, FHL would need severe curtailments in the event of a 24h outage, and would not be able to supply all loads



	Existing PV and Storage
Annual Costs (million USD)	5.363
Annual CO <sub>2</sub> (ton)	4955
Photovoltaic (kW)	2000
Electric Storage (kWh)	1000
Diesel Backup (kW)	-
ICE (kW)	-
CHP: ICE HX (kW)	-
Absorption Chiller (kW)	-
Solar Thermal (kW)	-

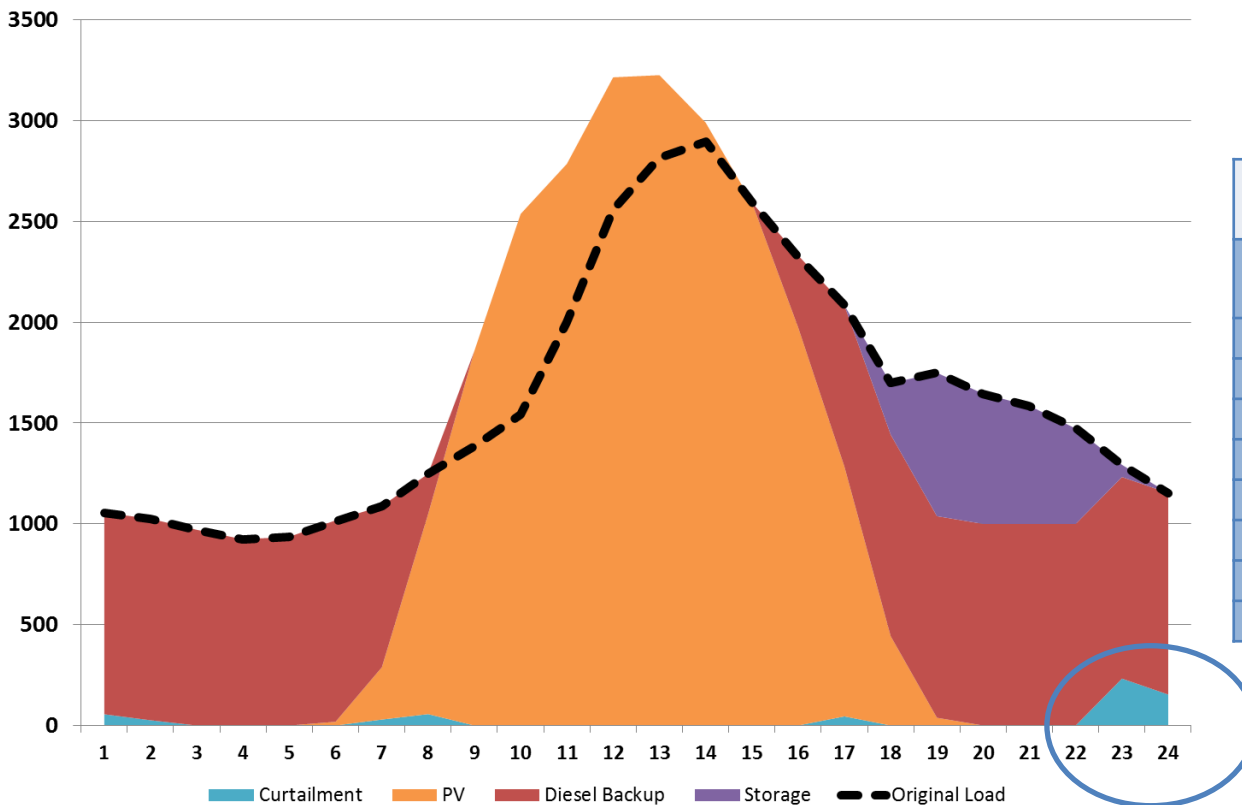
# An Example of I&P DER-CAM Application



expansion of PV, batteries, and backup generators allowed: planned expansion of PV and Storage, together with diesel backup generators will allow increased resilience at FHL



	Additional PV, Storage and Diesel Backup
Annual Costs (million USD)	2.976
Annual CO <sub>2</sub> (ton)	4119
Photovoltaic (kW)	3106
Electric Storage (kWh)	4374
Diesel Backup (kW)	1000
ICE (kW)	-
CHP: ICE HX (kW)	-
Absorption Chiller (kW)	-
Solar Thermal (kW)	-



*some load  
curtailment*